

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 AMMAN 05824 091431Z
ACTION SS-25

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-----069580 091433Z /41

P 091424Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6765
INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

S E C R E T AMMAN 05824

EXDIS

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, MOPS, UNSC, PINT, LE, IS, SY
SUBJECT: LEBANESE SITUATION

REF: (A) STATE 172481, (B) STATE 171142

1. PRIOR TO RECEIPT OF INSTRUCTIONS IN REFTELS, AMBASSADOR DISCUSSED LEBANESE SITUATION JULY 8 WITH PRIME MINISTER BADRAN. BADRAN INDICATED THAT KING HUSSEIN IS SERIOUSLY CONCERNED WITH LEBANESE SITUATION, BUT DID NOT GO INTO DETAIL REGARDING JORDANIAN POSITION. BADRAN DID EVINCE CONCERN THAT PROVOCATIVE ISRAELI OVERFLIGHTS, COUPLED WITH GENERAL ASSUMPTION OF CLOSE ISRAELI/LEBANESE CHRISTIAN COOPERATION, WAS TURNING GENERAL ARAB FEELING AGAINST CHRISTIANS, WHICH BADRAN FELT WAS AN UNHEALTHY DEVELOPMENT.

2. EMBASSY PRESENTED CONTENTS OF REFTELS JULY 9 TO MINISTER OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS, HASSAN IBRAHIM, LAYING STRESS, PER PARA. 8, REFTEL B, ON HOPE JORDAN COULD URGE
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PAGE 02 AMMAN 05824 091431Z

RESTRAINT OF CHAMOUNISTS AND DO WHAT IT COULD WITH SYRIANS TO PREVENT WORSENING OF SITUATION. IBRAHIM SAID HE WOULD BRIEF PRIME MINISTER BEFORE CABINET MEETING THAT MORNING. (SIMILAR PRESENTATION MADE TO COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF BIN SHAKER JULY 9 DURING AMBASSADOR'S FAREWELL CALL.)

3. IBRAHIM WAS IN FULL AGREEMENT WITH OUR VIEW REGARDING

IMPORTANCE OF AVOIDING OR FORESTALLING RESIGNATION BY SARKIS. IBRAHIM ALSO FELT EFFORTS OF FRIENDLY PARTIES TO PROMOTE CEASEFIRE WOULD BE NECESSARY VIS-A-VIS SYRIANS, SINCE SYRIANS MAY NEED SUCH EFFORTS AS FACE-SAVING MEANS OF ALLOWING THEM TO EXTRICATE THEMSELVES FROM DIFFICULT SITUATION. IBRAHIM STRESSED THIS WAS A PERSONAL VIEW AND NOT BASED ON ANY CONTACTS WITH THE SYRIANS. GENERAL BIN SHAKER ALSO ADVANCED PERSONAL VIEW THAT SYRIANS ARE NOT BENT ON AIM OF TOTAL DISARMAMENT OF CHRISTIAN MILITIAS, SINCE ONLY THE NAIVE WOULD BELIEVE THIS IS POSSIBLE WITHOUT TREMENDOUS BLOODSHED AND DISRUPTION. PICKERING

SECRET

NNN

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